

Middletown Public Schools

Middletown, Rhode Island

Thursday, February 17, 2011

Michael S. Pinto Conference Room

6:00 p.m. Budget Workshop

7:00 p.m. Regular Meeting

Members Present:

Theresa Spengler, Vice-Chair

Kellie DiPalma

Liana Fenton

William O'Connell arrived at 6:06 p.m.

Member Absent:

Michael F. Crowley, Jr.

Also Present:

Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Superintendent of Schools

Linda Savastano, Assistant Superintendent

Raquel Pellerin, Business Manager

Edward Collins, Facilities Director

The Budget Workshop began at 6:00 p.m. Administrative staff members present were Steven Ruscito. The Goals of the workshop were:

- To review the 2011-12 budget preparation process**
- Be updated on main programs in Final Budget Document**
- Provide an overview of Budget Document Highlights**
- Review of Level 1 Operational Budget**

Zero based budgeting is used to prepare the FY 11-12 budget. Level I dollars reflect the operational level of service. Level II dollars are linked to State and Federal law/mandates and Level III dollars are the school and district priorities (items outside the BEP). The main programs that will be contained in the final budget document are general fund, restricted fund, capital projects, and enterprise funds.

The school department will likely request a 4.25% cap increase, or \$948,970. There is a 10% decrease in miscellaneous revenue due to the economic climate (rentals, community activity fees). Group home aid will be level funded. A projected increase in enrollment, as additional free/reduced lunch numbers, will possibly translate into additional State Aid funding. Impact Aid will be level funded.

Estimated expenditures – Personnel compensation and benefits is \$27,902,366 or 86% of the budget and primarily consists of staff and basic operational needs (Level I)

Ms. Pellerin explained how you would obtain the information you need from the budget in detail. The next steps are to collect Level 2 requests from administrators and submit to budget subcommittee on March 8, 2011.

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MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Kellie DiPalma. To adjourn from the Budget Workshop at 7:00 p.m. Unanimous vote.

The regular School Committee Meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by Vice-Chair Theresa Spengler. Administrative staff members present were Steven Ruscito, Vincent Giuliano, and Stephen Ponte. A moment of silence was observed in memory of Kenneth Conca, Career Education Teacher at Gaudet School.

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Kellie DiPalma. To move Proclamations and Awards up on the agenda. Unanimous vote.

PROCLAMATIONS/AWARDS

•Student Awards – Awards were given out for Scholastic Art and Youth Art Month, “School Flags Across the US...Flying High”.

SPOTLIGHT ON TEACHING AND LEARNING

“MHS Science Department Update”

In 2010, 25% of students were proficient on the Science NECAP test in grade 11, compared to the prior year where 39% of students were proficient. The goal of the Science Department is to increase student proficiency. 1/6 of students were within 2 points of being proficient. Teachers will emphasize constructed-response style items as practice for the NECAP test. Not all students have taken three years of Science before the NECAP test due to scheduling conflicts. Not all students are taking Earth Science, which is part of the NECAP test.

The Science Curriculum Task Force has begun writing curriculum. Earth Science GSE's are included in required courses. Students are required to take Physics, then Chemistry, then Biology. Math/ELA interventions and fundamentals of Algebra are likely to help support in the Science area.

Building level suggestions include requesting that a common planning time for Science teachers be included in the 2011-12 schedule, having a NECAP practice exam for all 11th graders in April, and examining the schedule of Special Education students and teachers with Science courses for 2011-12 to assure effective co-teaching. District level suggestions include adding a permanent FTE Chemistry/Physics position and a Science intervention program

similar to the Math/ELA grant. Another suggestion would be to have all 8th graders take Algebra 1.

INFORMATION

Mrs. Kraeger listed items of information:

- Arbitration Opinion and Award regarding High School Student Services Manager position.**

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- Resolution by the New Shoreham Public Schools regarding the graduation requirement. This has since been resolved.**

- Letter from Representative Deborah Ruggiero regarding the Strategic Plan Leadership Breakfast**

CORRESPONDENCE

No “Correspondence” for February 17, 2011.

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Kellie DiPalma. To approve the Consent Agenda. Unanimous vote.

- Approval of Minutes of January 20, 2011 School Committee Meeting**
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated December 14, 2010, in the amount of \$3,586.44**
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated January 18, 2011, in the amount of \$385,609.37**
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated January 19, 2011, in the amount of \$685.70**
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated January 19, 2011, in the amount of \$10,252.38**
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated January 20, 2011, in the amount of \$5,335.58**
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated February 1, 2011, in the amount of \$187,743.96**
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated February 1, 2011, in the amount of \$2,561.47**

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION ON PERSONNEL

RESIGNATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF RETIREMENT

Vincent Guiliano Principal, J.H. Gaudet School

Thomas Alose Career Education Teacher, J.H. Gaudet School

**RETURN TO FULL TIME TEACHING POSITION FOR THE 2011-2012
SCHOOL YEAR**

Maureen Sullivan Multi-Age Teacher, Forest Avenue School

DENY SABBATICAL FOR THE 2011-2012 SCHOOL YEAR

David Pritchard ALP Teacher, Middletown High School

EXTENSION OF MATERNITY LEAVE

Sarah McCarty Grade Six Teacher, Gaudet School

For the remainder of the 2010-2011 School Year

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FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE ACT

Maureen West From February 2, 2011 to an undetermined date

Chief Clerk, Oliphant Administration

ACTION ITEMS

REDUCTION IN FORCE

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) Liana Fenton. That the Superintendent's Report be accepted and adopted and the necessary letters sent out. Unanimous vote.

Mrs. Kraeger recommended layoff notices to the following list of teachers and substitute teachers:

Category 1, Teachers A-I

Category 2, Teachers A&B

PROGRAM OF STUDIES, MHS

This is being tabled for this meeting and will be revisited in March.

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) Liana Fenton. To table the motion on the High School Program of Studies until the March 17, 2011 School Committee Meeting. Unanimous vote.

SNOW DAYS

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) William O'Connell. That the School

Committee request the Board of Regents, based on RIGL 16-2-3, to approve the reduction of the school year and make up the days by lengthening the school day for intervention purposes. Unanimous vote.

Mrs. Kraeger is recommending under RI GL 16-2-3, that the School Committee request that the Board of Regents approve the reduction of the school year and make up school days by lengthening the school day. A Memorandum of Understanding from the teachers union would be necessary. The additional minutes in the school day would be used for intervention blocks. Building Principals would be asked to work with School Improvement Teams to present a plan to the Board of Regents. Miss DiPalma asked if the block of time is substantial enough for any kind of program. Mr. Ponte would use the time right after lunch and then follow the regular schedule so there would be no disruption of the regular day.

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OLD BUSINESS

•SMART BUS – Mr. Collins brought this idea forward to the School Committee. Approval was needed from town to proceed. There was a question as to the impact on the Police Department in terms of staff.

The Town declined the proposal.

NEW BUSINESS

•NESDEC – Mrs. Spengler read a statement from Mr. Crowley regarding the Aquidneck Island Study Group and the issue of regionalization. Mr. Crowley conveyed his deep disappointment in the NESDEC study. Mrs. Spengler agreed that regionalization would reduce the quality of education and the teaching and learning that we currently have in Middletown. Special Education costs were not in the Phase I study.

•TOWN/SCHOOL BUDGET COMMITTEE – At a January Town Council/School Committee workshop, the Town requested that the School Department form a joint budget committee. We have not heard back from the Town as to the purpose of such a committee.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Kellie DiPalma. To extend the School Committee Meeting beyond 9:00 p.m. Unanimous vote.

•Curriculum – Mrs. Savastano discussed testing results. When the

state releases results, they are by teaching year and testing year. There was a significant increase in reading scores in grades 8 and 11. In math, scores were significantly higher than the state average in grades 3, 4 and 6.

- Financial – Reported during Budget Workshop.

- Facilities – When comparing National Grid rates, we are paying .30 less. The utility contracts are reaping financial benefits. Mr. Collins presented the Facilities Use Report. There were 392 events in the schools this month. On average, there are about 5,000 events each year. Over 15, 000 events have been held in the last five years. These are community buildings. Gaudet School is utilized throughout the summer.

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Kellie DiPalma. That the School Committee receive the Superintendent's Reports. Unanimous vote.

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REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

No Reports of Officers and Committees for February 17, 2011.

ADJOURN FROM MEETING

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) Liana Fenton. To adjourn from School Committee Meeting at 9:28 p.m. Unanimous vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Clerk